(c) whether this deal was signed before the Chief Army Staff visit USA: and

(d) if so. to what extent this defence deal between the two countries have helped the capability of Indian army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b)The Governments of India and the United States signed a 'Letter of Offer and Acceptance' for supply of the Weapon Locating Radar through the Foreign Military Sales Programme of the United States in April, 2002. No other major weapons purchase has been made from the United States.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The induction of the Weapon Locating Radar will enhance the combat capability of the Indian Army.

Purchase of defence armaments and weaponry according to set guidelines

758. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "MoD on buying spree" appearing in the Statesman dated 2nd June, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that the purchase of huge stock of defence armaments and weaponry is processed through the set procedure following all norms and guidelines laid down for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The modernization of Armed Forces is a continuous and ongoing process. The requirements of the Armed Forces are reviewed on a continuing basis for induction of modernized weapons and weapon systems keeping in view the threat perceptions and the prevailing strategic environment as also emerging technology. All the cases of procurement/ acquisition of weapons and weapon systems are processed in accordance with the prescribed procurement procedure keeping in view the budget allocation.